WWI SILENT NIGHT

CONFLICT

THESIS

COMPROMISE

CONTEXT

FOOTBALL

TREASON

LEGACY

Daily Mail
CHRISTMAS TWICE AT FRONT

Christmas at the Front:

- Reflects the harsh realities of war.
- Demonstrates the resilience of soldiers.
- Highlights the impact on soldiers' families.

Legacy:

- Continues to be remembered.
- Reminds us of the sacrifice.
- Promotes peace and understanding.
THESIS

The Christmas Truce of 1914 was an unofficial truce observed along the Western Front on Christmas Day, December 25, 1914, during World War I. It brought about a rare period of peace on the Western Front, as German and British troops met at the front line to exchange gifts and engage in friendly interactions. This truce was a significant event that highlighted the human cost of war and the desire for a cessation of hostilities. It serves as a reminder of the importance of humanity and compassion in times of conflict.

CONTEXT

The Christmas Truce was the result of a number of factors that led to a brief period of peace. The troops had been fighting for months and were weary of the war. The Christmas Truce was observed across the entire Western Front, from the Somme to the Aisne, and included both British and German soldiers. It is estimated that approximately 100,000 soldiers participated in the truce.

LEGACY

Today, the Christmas Truce is remembered as a symbol of humanity and the potential for peace even in the midst of war. It has inspired various forms of commemoration, including events, memorials, and educational programs. The legacy of the Christmas Truce serves as a reminder of the importance of peace and understanding in a divided world.
Early expectations, efficient fighting, and evolution in warfare were major conflicts. The Western Front stalemate disrupted the war. Spirits once high declined from severe losses and harsh climate of the winter. Developments of trench warfare, machine guns, and artillery only lengthened the war and caused more deaths. Generals overlooked such aspects of the war. A compromise would be inevitable.

Officers rejected any request for peace. Generals believed men should be focused on war, not games. Without an end in sight, troops refused to obey.
TREASON

Officers rejected any request for truce. Generals believed men should be focused on war, not games. Without an end in sight, troops refused to obey.

"That night the German Christmas Truce was over and all returning officers disappeared, and headquarters on both sides were being told that such a truce would never happen again." (Gardens)

"Dam on thing should not happen in warzone. Here live on Christmas even of house."

A: Hull Leader 1914
A compromise was breathing in fighting increased death, and dwindled evacuation. The war grew stale. Troops were open to communication, reduced fighting, and eventually interaction. Across the Western Front, weapons ceased to fire. They left trenches to exchange gifts, comfort, and stories. Such activities proceeded until New Year in some segments of the front.

“...Germany’s troops were descending on Paris from the North... Fierce fighting continued, but so... The lines of battle seemed to fall... Both sides dug a musket trenches. From fifty to one...” (Murphy 25). Continued

“...A Scottish soldier: ‘We had a football match which started in summer and by the autumn, the men and officers who had trained football match got underway. The men started to play football with their own caps and we did the same with ours. It was played to finish up in the season. Despite the fact that it was a lighthearted occasion and that we had no rules, a game where the players were out, but all the officers and footballers, although they had been very strict, played with huge enthusiasm...’

Christmas Trees Reminiscence,” Flaugnies, Belgium.

“My wife in Sankt Par, Britain. The jamboree radical ornamentations were part of a Kentish ceremony” (Murphy 8). The military and so the First World War began.

The Franco-Prussian War stage for a global conflict. Gibson others, France, Britain, and Russia, Italy, and Holy, divided Europe: “My side” (Murphy 3).
FOOTBALL

More than just an exchanging of gifts, this ceasefire instigated a football match between the opposing sides.

"I, like a Scottish soldier appeared with a football which seemed to come from nowhere and a few minutes later a real football match got underway. The Scots marked their goal zone with orange caps and we did the same with ours. It was far from easy to play on the frozen ground, but we continued, keeping vigorously to the rules, despite the fact that it was only lasted an hour and that we had no referee. A great many of the players were wounded, but all the amateur Soudbulls, although they may have been very tired, played with great enthusiasm."

Lieutenant John Nisbett, Scots with the 133rd, 25 December, 1914

(Back)

"The ball appeared from somewhere, I don’t know where, but it came from their side - it wasn’t from our side that the ball came. They made up some goals and we were a goal behind and then it was just a general kickabout. I should think there were about a couple of hundred taking part. I had a go at the ball. I was pretty good then, at 19. Everybody seemed to be enjoying themselves. There was no sort of referee, no linesman, no training. I was simply a rookie - nothing like the soccer you see on television. The boots we wore were really, really long with a metal toe that we had on - and in those days the boots were made of rubber and they were very soggy."

Eric Williams, Former Territorial of 133rd Cheshires, UK TV interview, 1983

(Credit)